

MARVEL

#2

**CULLEN BUNN
IBAN COELLO
MATT YACKEY**

VENOMIZED



VENOMIZED

THE POISONS--A MULTIVERSAL SPECIES THAT HARVESTS SYMBIOTES AND CONSUMES THEIR SUPERHUMAN HOSTS--HAVE SET THEIR SIGHTS ON PRIME EARTH.

THE POISON INCURSION BEGAN AT THE EDGE OF THE GALAXY, WHERE THEY CLASHED WITH VENOM AND THE X-MEN, POISONING JEAN GREY AND MAKING HER LOYAL TO THE HIVE.

WITHOUT THE TIME TO EVEN MOURN JEAN, VENOM ORDERED THE X-MEN TO RETURN TO EARTH AT MAXMIUM SPEED, FEARING A FULL-SCALE INVASION.

BUT WHEN THEY ARRIVED, VENOM AND THE TEAM CAME FACE-TO-FACE WITH A DOZEN HEROES, ALL OF THEM ALREADY FORCED TO BOND WITH ALIEN SYMBIOTES...

NOTE: THE EVENTS OF VENOMIZED TAKE PLACE BEFORE THE DEATH OF THE MIGHTY THOR.

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YOU'LL **BOTH** STAND DOWN AND SOMEONE WILL OFFER AN EXPLANATION...

...OR I'LL COMPRESS MY MAGNETIC FIELDS UNTIL YOU FIND YOURSELVES LIVING AS ONE **FUSED ENTITY** FOR THE REST OF YOUR DAYS.



IT TROUBLES ME THAT I FIND MAGNETO'S METHODS BOTH EFFECTIVE AND APPROPRIATE IN THIS MOMENT.

WHAT SAY YOU, M'LADY THOR?

AYE, HERCULES.



WE TRIED TO GET HERE BEFORE THEM... BEFORE THEY ATTACKED.

THESE CREATURES-- THE **POISONS**-- USE ALIEN SYMBIOTES TO STEAL PEOPLES' POWERS--



NOT JUST YOUR POWERS. YOUR MEMORIES, YOUR BODY. THEY TAKE **EVERYTHING**.

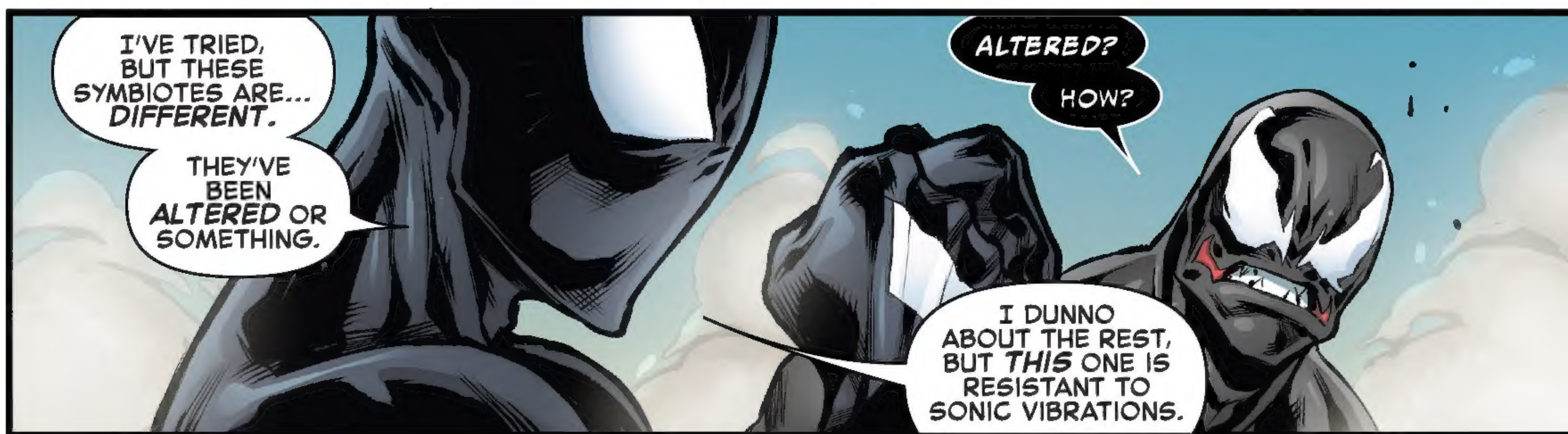
THEY'LL STRIP YOU OF YOUR SYMBIOTES AND EAT YOU ALIVE TO FUEL THEIR TRANSFORMATION INTO SOMETHING NEW. MONSTERS LOYAL ONLY TO THE HIVE.

AND NOW THEY'RE **HERE**.



WE'VE ENCOUNTERED THEM BEFORE.

SURELY, THEN, THERE MUST BE A **CURE**? IF WE SIMPLY REMOVE THE CREATURES--



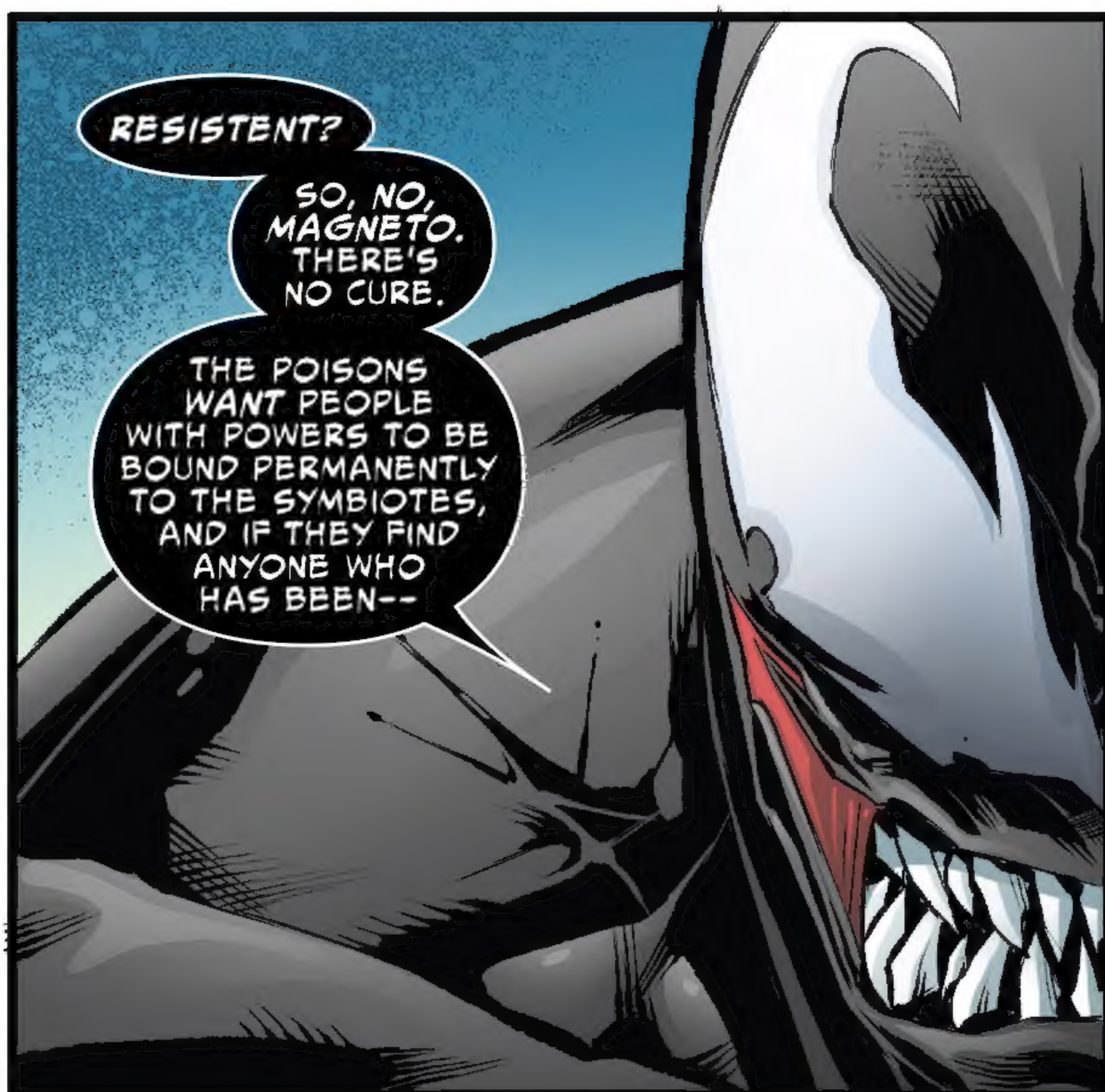
I'VE TRIED, BUT THESE SYMBIOTES ARE... **DIFFERENT**.

THEY'VE BEEN **ALTERED** OR SOMETHING.

ALTERED?

HOW?

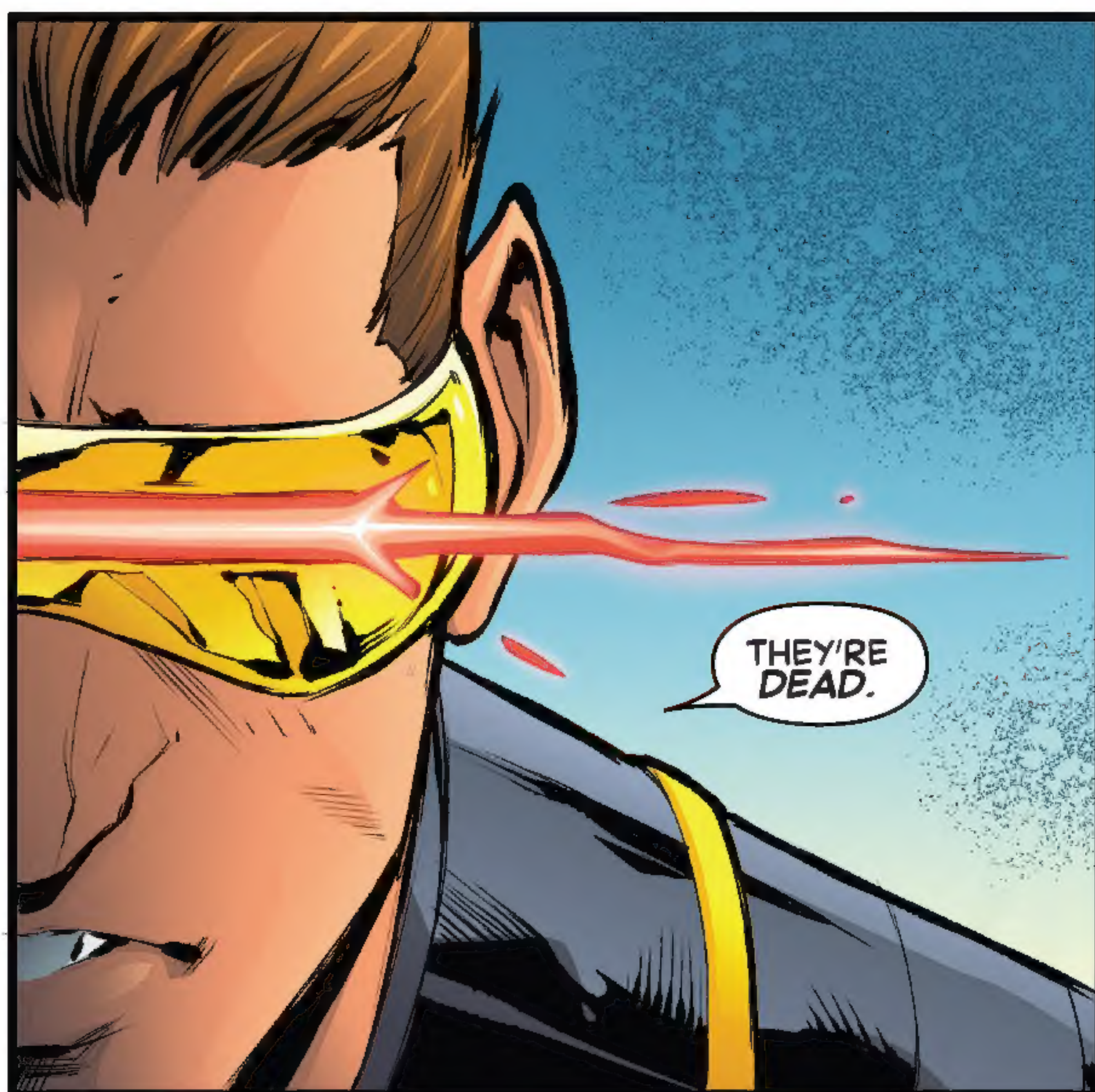
I DUNNO ABOUT THE REST, BUT **THIS** ONE IS RESISTANT TO SONIC VIBRATIONS.



RESISTENT?

SO, NO, MAGNETO. THERE'S NO CURE.

THE POISONS WANT PEOPLE WITH POWERS TO BE BOUND PERMANENTLY TO THE SYMBIOTES, AND IF THEY FIND ANYONE WHO HAS BEEN--



THEY'RE DEAD.



WAIT, SCOTT...

WHERE'S JEAN?

THEY GOT HER, JIMMY.

SHE'S GONE...



...AND I CAN STILL HEAR HER SCREAMING IN MY HEAD.



THESE...POISONS... ATTACKED THE XAVIER INSTITUTE.

IF THEY WANT PEOPLE WITH POWERS THEY'LL NOT SOON FORGET THE YOUNG **MUTANTS** THEY FOUND THERE.

WE MUST GET THIS NEW INFORMATION TO KITTY PRYDE AND GET HER STUDENTS TO SAFETY...SO WE HAVE TIME TO DEVISE A PLAN OF COUNTER-ATTACK...

...SO WE HAVE TIME TO GRIEVE.



I MIGHT KNOW SOMEWHERE WE ALL CAN HOLE UP.

IF NOTHING ELSE...THEY'VE GOT EXPERIENCE WITH SYMBIOTES...

"AND WE'RE GOING TO NEED ALL THE HELP WE CAN GET."

MANHATTAN BRIDGE.

PLEASE!
EVERYONE! GET
BACK IN YOUR
VEHICLES!

YOU'RE NOT
GOING ANYWHERE
IF YOU'RE NOT
BEHIND THE
WHEEL!

FORGET
THE
CARS!

LEAVE
THEM!

DIDN'T YOU
SEE THE NEWS?!
THE SUPERS ARE
ATTACKING EACH
OTHER ALL OVER THE
CITY--AND WE'LL
BE NEXT!

IT'LL BE
ALL RIGHT,
MISS! NO ONE'S
TURNING ON
ANYONE.

GET BACK
IN YOUR CAR,
ALL RIGHT?

WE'LL
MAKE SURE
THINGS STAY
SAFE OUT
HERE.

NOT
SO SURE
ABOUT THAT,
D-MAN.

WHAT
IS IT,
RAGE?

NOT SO
SURE THAT
ANYONE'S SAFE
ANYWHERE!

WELL, WELL,
WELL.

WHAT
DO WE HAVE
HERE?

IT LOOKS
LIKE ALL THE
QUIVERING, FLESHY
LITTLE MEAT SACKS
WANT TO GET THE
DREK OUT OF
TOWN!

AND
REALLY, WHO
CAN BLAME
THEM?

BUT--
SEE--WE
DON'T WANT
ALL OF YOU
ANYHOW.

THE BOSS
WAS PRETTY
CLEAR: "KILLER
THRILL," SHE SAID,
"ONLY FETCH
PEOPLE WITH
POWERS."

BUT...
WHEN IT COMES
TO THE HOSTS WE
REALLY DO
WANT...

...WELL, IT
LOOKS LIKE *SLIM*
PICKINGS.

I GUESS
WE NEED TO
CHUM THE
WATERS.

HYPERION,
CAPTAIN
MARVEL, THING,
GAMORA...
...SPILL
SOME
BLOOD.



ALCHEMAX INDUSTRIES.

NO, IN FACT, I *DON'T* NEED TO BE REASONABLE!

GO AHEAD AND DO YOUR TESTS.

BUT YOU DO THEM *OUT HERE*.

THAT'S THE END OF THE ARGUMENT.

I'D LIKE TO REMIND YOU THAT YOU CAME TO ALCHEMAX FOR HELP BECAUSE WE UNDERSTAND THE ALIEN SYMBIOTE PHYSIOLOGY.

IT'S MY BELIEF--*OUR* BELIEF--THAT THE BEST COURSE OF ACTION WOULD BE TO--

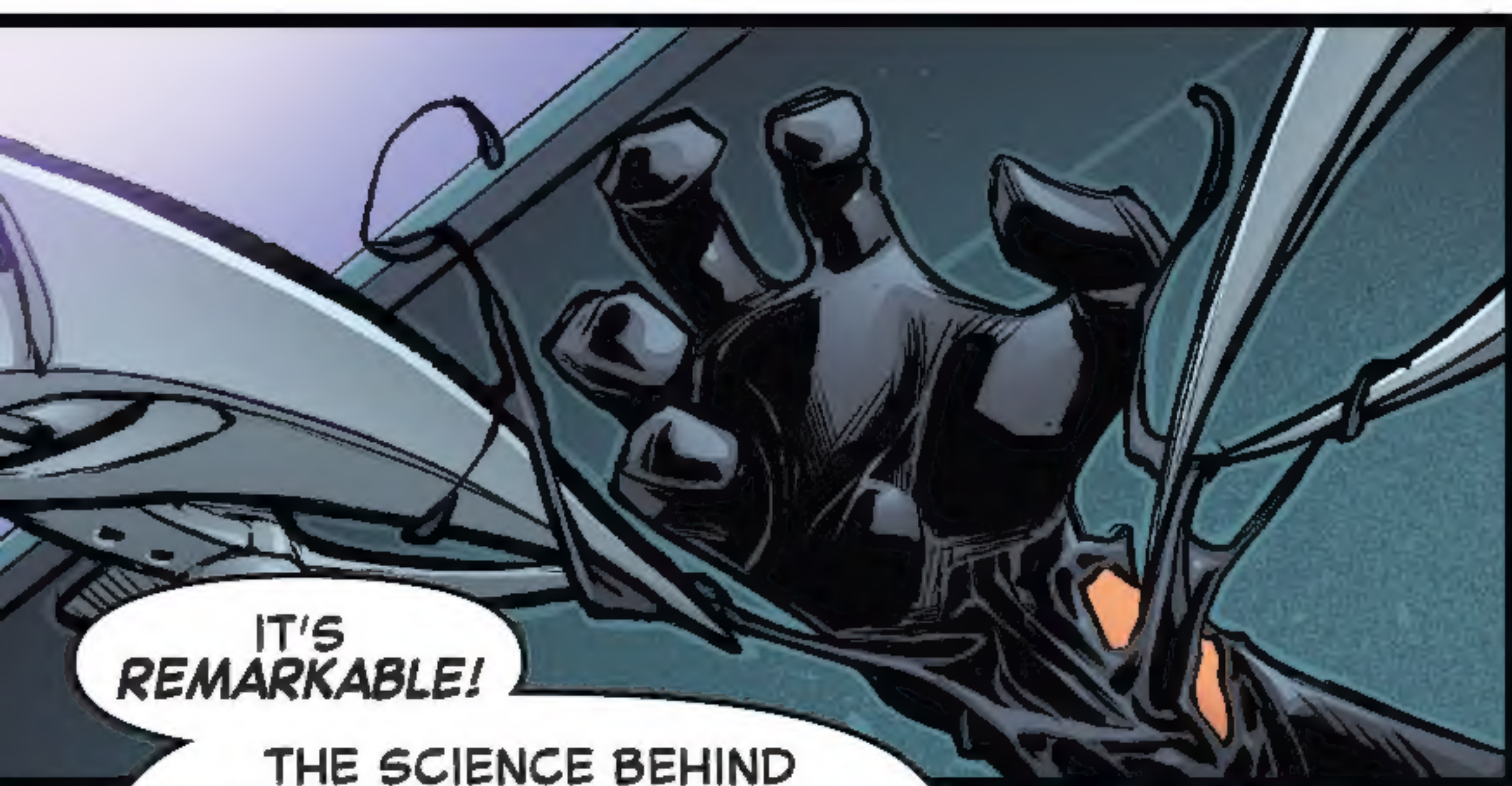
I DON'T *CARE* WHAT YOU THINK THE BEST COURSE OF ACTION IS! I KNOW ALL ABOUT ALCHEMAX--AND THAT IT USED TO BE CALLED *OSCORP*! JUST *BEING* HERE MAKES MY *SKIN CRAWL*, SO I'D KINDLY ASK YOU TO GET THESE ALIENS OFF MY KIDS SO WE CAN *BE ON OUR WAY*.

TRY TO UNDERSTAND--

STEVEN.

I BELIEVE MISS PRYDE'S DECISION IS FINAL.

THANKS... I GUESS.



IT'S
REMARKABLE!

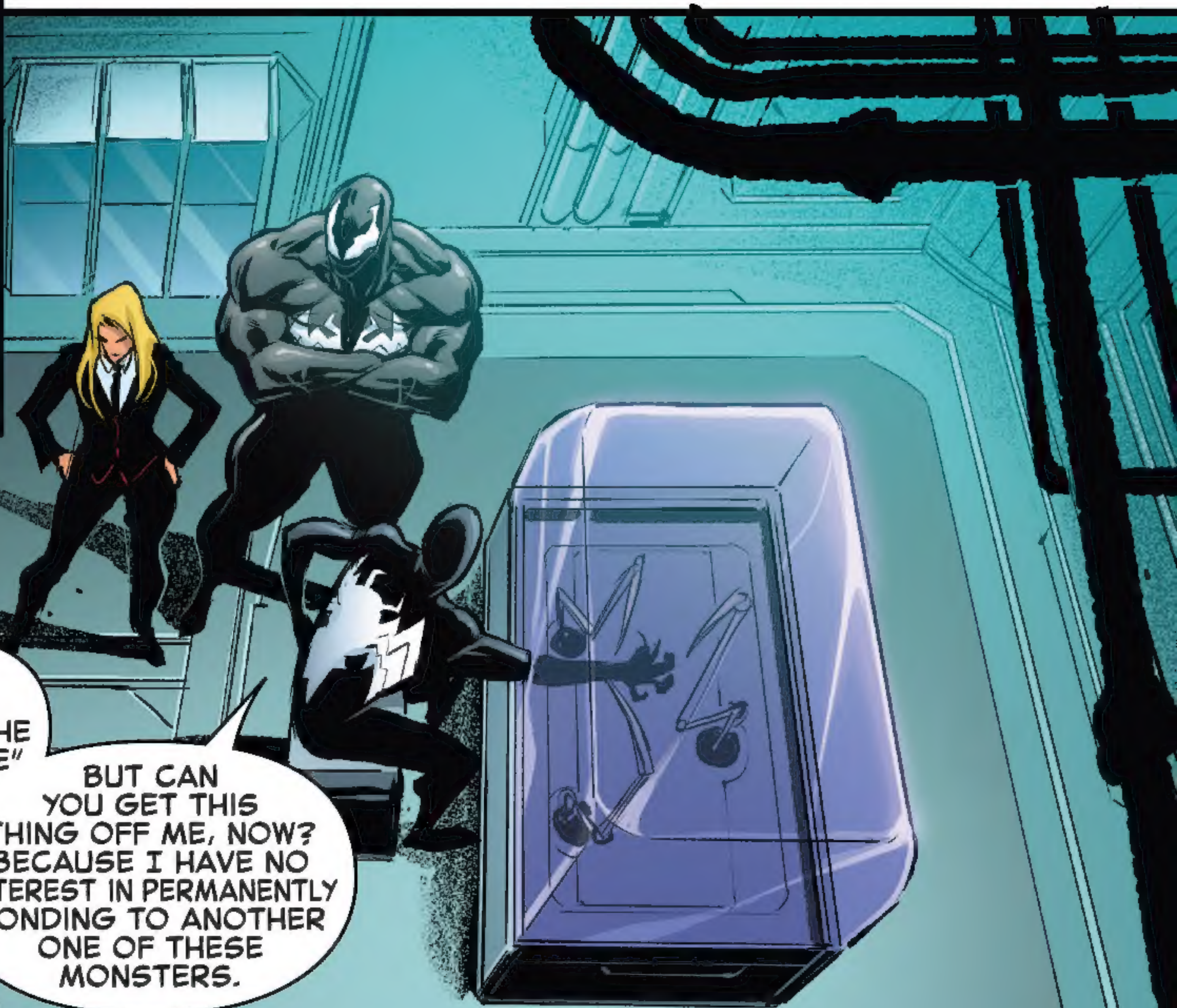
THE SCIENCE BEHIND
THE MODIFICATIONS OF
THESE SYMBIOTES' PHYSIOLOGY
IS BOTH...INSIDIOUS AND
INGENIOUS.



THAT'S
JUST GREAT,
DR. STEVE.

I'M GLAD
YOU CAN
APPRECIATE THE
"MAD SCIENCE"
OF IT ALL.

BUT CAN
YOU GET THIS
THING OFF ME, NOW?
BECAUSE I HAVE NO
INTEREST IN PERMANENTLY
BONDING TO ANOTHER
ONE OF THESE
MONSTERS.



YOU EVER
CONSIDER THAT
THE "MONSTER"
DOESN'T WANT TO BE
HOOKED UP WITH
YOU, EITHER?

IF THE
KLYNTAR HAD A
CHOICE, IT'D GET
THE HELL AWAY
FROM YOU.

THERE'S
A REASON
THE POISONS
HOBBLED THE
SYMBIOTES.



DO
YOU HAVE
A CHOICE,
EDDIE?

BECAUSE
IF NOTHING'S
KEEPING YOU HERE,
MAYBE YOU SHOULD
GET OUT OF
MY FACE.



HEY!

CAN YOU
TWO SAVE THIS
FOR A DAY THE CITY
ISN'T UNDER ALIEN
INVASION?

TO ANSWER
YOUR QUESTION,
SPIDER-MAN, WE'RE
NOT SURE IF THERE'S A
MEANS TO *PULL* THESE
SYMBIOTES OFF
THEIR HOSTS.

STEVE HAS
TRIED FIRE AND
SONICS, AND NEITHER
SEEM TO HAVE
AN EFFECT.



THERE ARE, THOUGH,
OTHER AVENUES WORTH
EXPLORING.

AS SOON
AS WE LEARNED
THAT SYMBIOTES WERE
BEING USED IN THESE
ATTACKS, MS. ALLAN
CALLED IN ADDITIONAL
RESOURCES.

HEY,
FELLAS.



AGENT
ANTI-VENOM,
REPORTING
FOR DUTY.



HELL,
NO!

HELL,
NO!

I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE
THINKING...YOU'LL USE ANTI-
VENOM TO PURGE THE
SYMBIOTES.

BUT
THERE'S NO
WAY I'M GONNA SIT
BACK AND WATCH
YOU KILL THESE
CREATURES.



I
UNDERSTAND
YOUR CONCERNS,
BUT THIS MAY BE THE
ONLY WAY TO FREE
THE VICTIMS
FROM--



VICTIMS?

I DON'T
KNOW IF YOU'VE
BEEN PAYING
ATTENTION, DOC,
BUT THE KLYNTAR
ARE VICTIMS
HERE, TOO!



OH, ENOUGH
ALREADY!

LOOK, EDDIE, I CAN ALMOST
UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE
SAYING...

...BUT WE
BOTH KNOW
WHAT ONE OF
THESE ALIENS
CAN DO TO
YOU...

"...AND IT'S
NEVER
GOOD."

ELSEWHERE.

GET THIS
THING OFF
ME!

THIS...
THIS ISN'T MY
SYMBIOTE!

GET IT
OFF!

HE
SCREAMS...
HE STRUGGLES...
BUT HE WILL **BOND**
WITH THE NEW
SYMBIOTE.

AAARRGHHH!

AND WHEN HE DOES, **THE HIVE**
WILL BE MADE IMPERVIOUS TO
CARNAGE'S BLOODLUST.

WE WERE
UNPREPARED FOR
OUR FIRST ENCOUNTER
WITH HIM. **NEVER**
AGAIN.

WITH HIS
UNIQUE PHYSIOLOGY
AT OUR COMMAND,
IT WILL REQUIRE LITTLE
EFFORT TO CLAIM
THIS WORLD.

SOON ENOUGH,
THOSE WE STRUCK
IN THE FIRST WAVE
OF ATTACKS WILL BE
READY FOR **THE**
HARVEST.

AND THEY
WILL ONLY BE
THE FIRST. THIS
REALITY IS UNIQUELY
TEEMING WITH
LIFE THAT WILL
STRENGTHEN
THE HIVE.

THIS
WORLD AND ITS
PEOPLE--**ALL** OF
THEM--WILL BE
REBORN IN **OUR**
IMAGE.

AND WHAT ABOUT
THE **BOY?**

THE ONE
WHO HAS NOT
EXISTED IN THE
OTHER UNIVERSES
WE HAVE
SEEN.

THE **OTHER**
ANOMALY.

WE HAVE
DISPATCHED
A STRIKE TEAM
TO RETRIEVE
HIM.

THIS KID
KAIJU WILL
BE OURS.

AND WITH HIM, HIS
ABILITY TO CREATE
NEW, MORE POWERFUL
HOSTS FOR OUR
BRETHREN.

CARNAGE
WILL GIFT US THIS
WORLD, BUT KID KAIJU
WILL GIVE US THE
MEANS TO CONQUER
GALAXIES.

EXCELLENT.

TERRAFORMED ISLAND OF MU.



I...WAS GROOT.

OH, HELLO. I AM H.E.R.B.I.E.

I'M AFRAID KEI KAWADE IS NOT HOME AT THE MOMENT.

BUT I HAVE A PRERECORDED MESSAGE TO DELIVER.

HELLO, YOU WANKERS.

I'VE TAKEN THE LIBERTY OF GETTING KID KAIJU AND HIS FAMILY THE OUT OF HERE BEFORE YOU LOT CAME CALLING.

I'M TERRIBLY SORRY I COULDN'T BE HERE TO LOOK RIGHT IN YOUR EYES WHEN YOU REALIZE HOW ROYALLY YOU'VE UP.

BUT I'D LIKE TO LEAVE YOU WITH ONE FINAL THOUGHT.

YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE COME HERE LOOKING FOR TROUBLE.

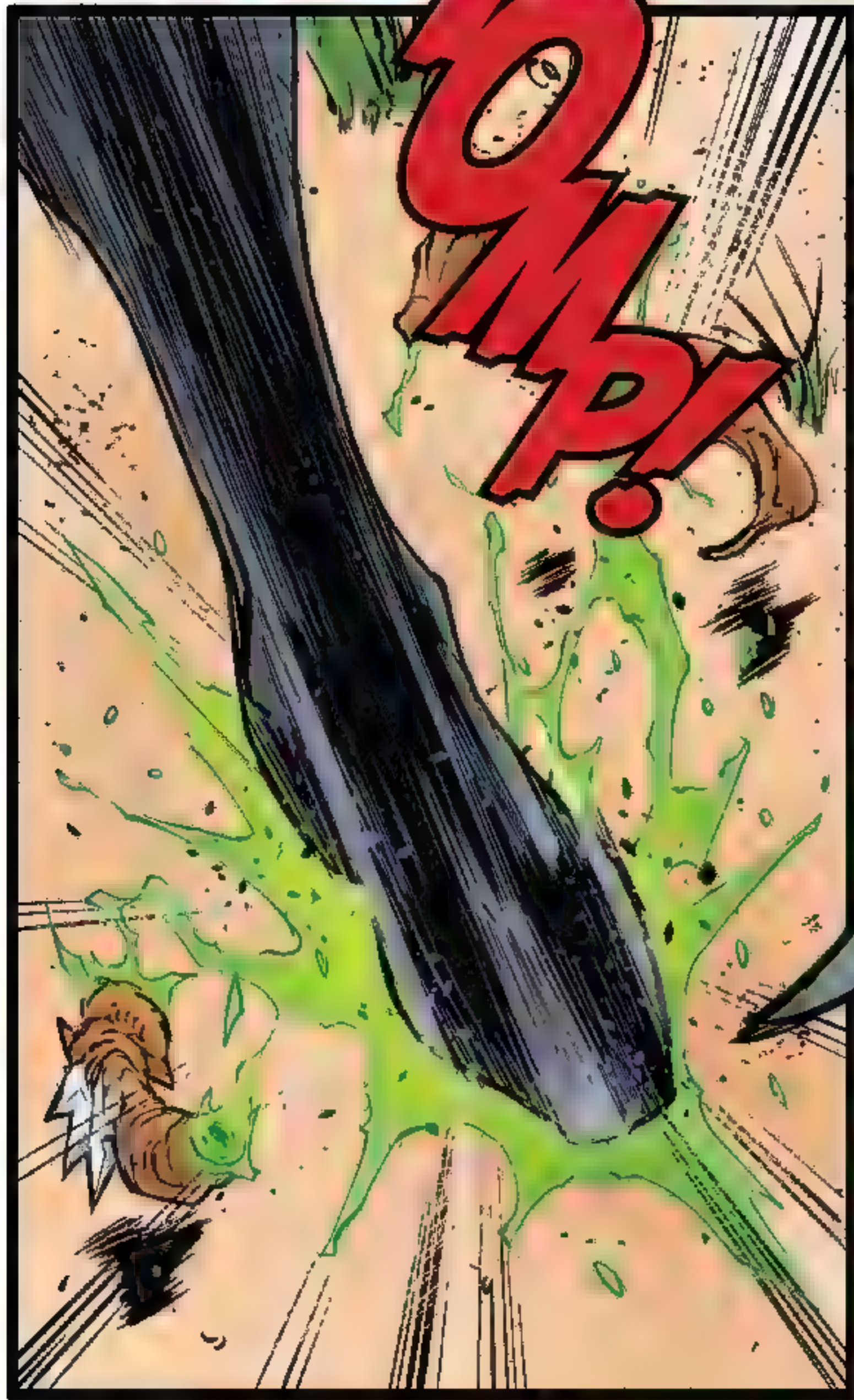
HAVE A NICE DAY.



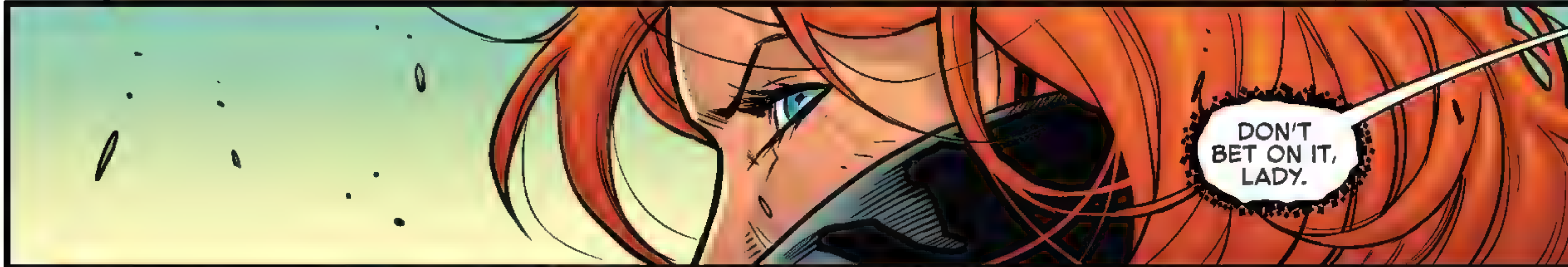
UNN-TTHOOOOO!!!



STOMP!



SORTED.



DON'T BET ON IT, LADY.



YOU'RE
**ELSA
BLOODSTONE.**
WE KNOW
YOU.

BUT YOU'RE
NOT THE ONLY
**MONSTER
HUNTER**
ON
THIS ISLAND.

AND--NO
MATTER WHAT
YOU THINK--
YOU'RE CERTAINLY
NOT THE
BADDEST.

TELL
US WHERE
YOU'VE HIDDEN
HIM.

TELL
US WHERE
TO FIND KID
KAIJU.

AND WE'LL
MAKE YOUR
TRANSFORMATION
AS PAINLESS
AS POSSIBLE.

TEMPTING.

BUT I
THINK I'M MORE
INCLINED TO TELL
YOU TO GET RIGHT
~~~~~

I'VE GIVEN  
KID KAIJU  
**MODRED'S CAUSEWAY,**  
AND WITH IT, HE CAN  
TELEPORT HIMSELF  
ANYWHERE IN  
THE WORLD.

YOU CAN  
BET--



"--HE'S AS FAR  
AWAY FROM  
YOU LOT AS  
POSSIBLE."

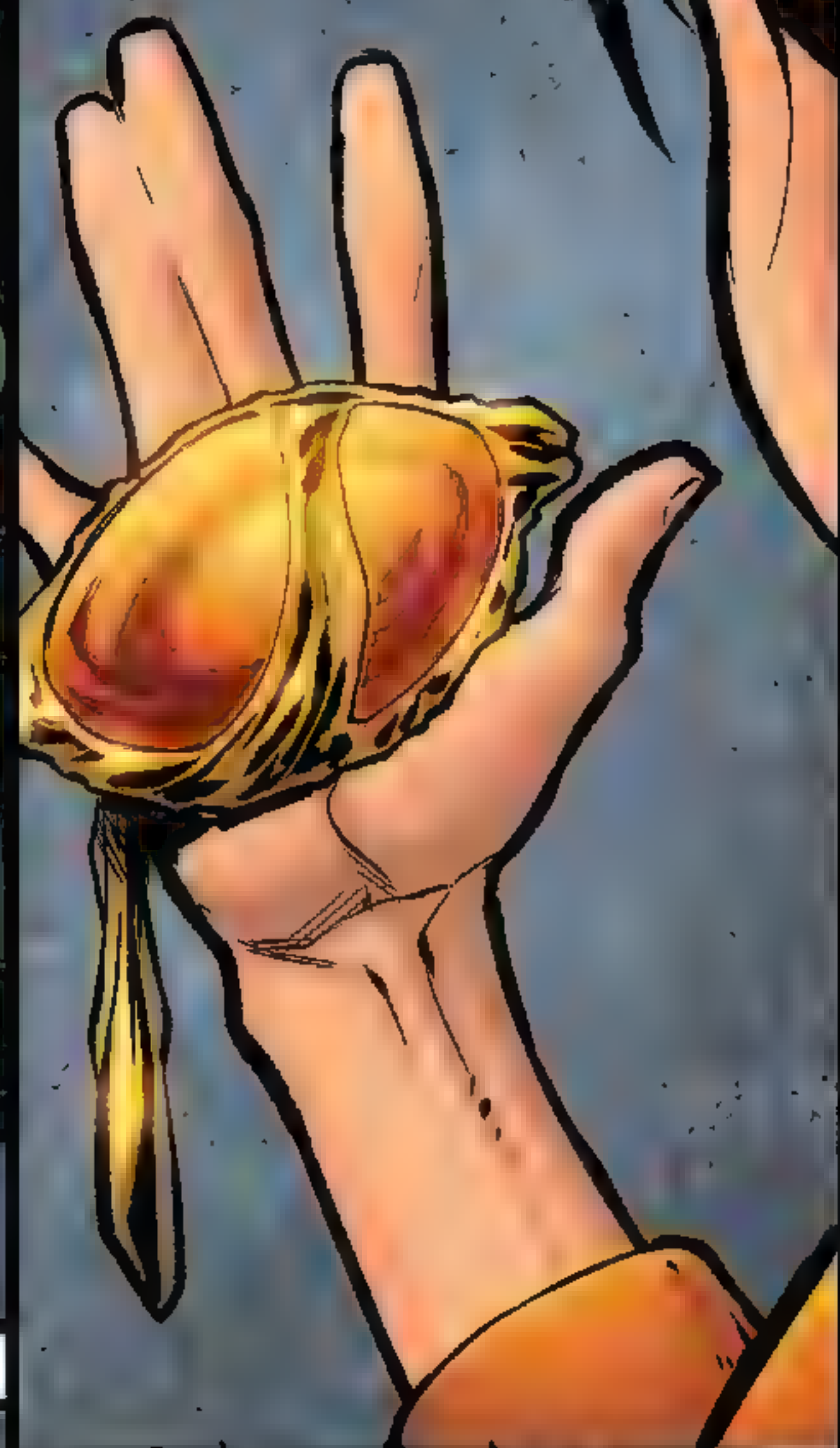


NEW YORK CITY.



SORRY,  
ELSA.

I KNOW  
THIS WASN'T  
PART OF THE  
PLAN...



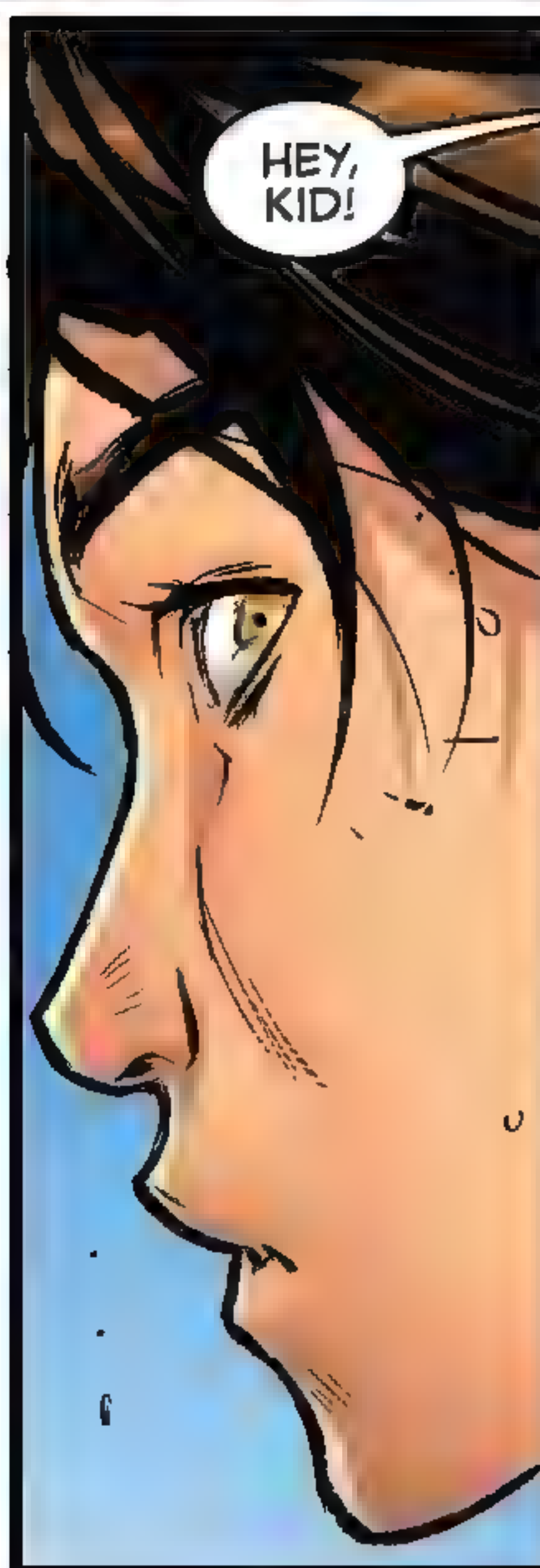
BUT IF THE  
POISONS ARE ON  
EARTH, I'VE GOT TO  
DO EVERYTHING  
I CAN TO...



...HELP.

RUN!

WE'VE  
GOT TO GET  
OUT OF  
HERE!



HEY,  
KID!



WHAT  
ARE YOU  
DOING JUST  
STANDING  
THERE?

YOU  
GOTTA FIND  
YOUR FAMILY!  
YOU GOTTA  
GET OUT OF  
HERE!

DON'T  
YOU  
KNOW?









OBVIOUSLY  
YOU MONSTERS  
CAME TO EARTH  
LOOKING FOR  
A FIGHT!  
WE'RE  
HAPPY TO  
ACCOMMODATE  
YOU!

BUT I'M  
AFRAID YOU'VE  
BITTEN OFF MORE  
THAN YOU CAN  
CHEW!

GOOD  
TO SEE YA,  
CAP!

ISN'T THAT  
CUTE! YOU THINK  
YOU'RE BEING  
RESCUED?

YOU'RE  
WAY OFF THE  
MARK.

THIS  
IS WHAT WE  
WANTED!

SHRAK!

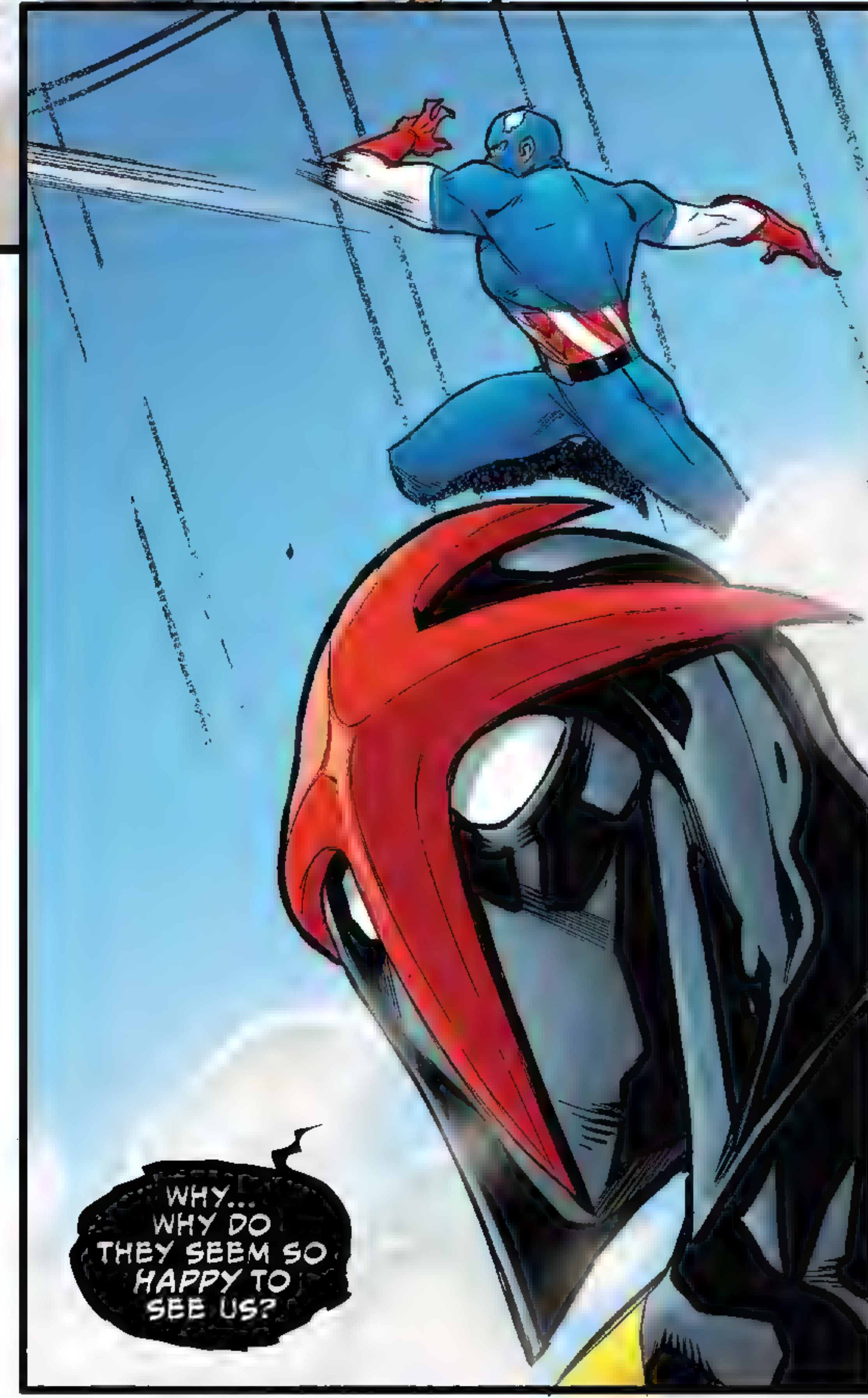


THIS  
IS THE MAIN  
COURSE!



CAREFUL  
NOT TO KILL  
THEM!

THEY  
WON'T DO US  
ANY GOOD IF  
THEY'RE  
DEAD.



WHY...  
WHY DO  
THEY SEEM SO  
HAPPY TO  
SEE US?



D-MAN!  
WATCH  
YOUR  
BACK!

HNN--





REAAAAARRRRGH!



THAT'S  
IT, LITTLE  
ONES. FEED.  
FEAST!

AND  
DON'T FORGET  
THE OTHERS--  
THEY'RE RIPE,  
TOO!



AH--



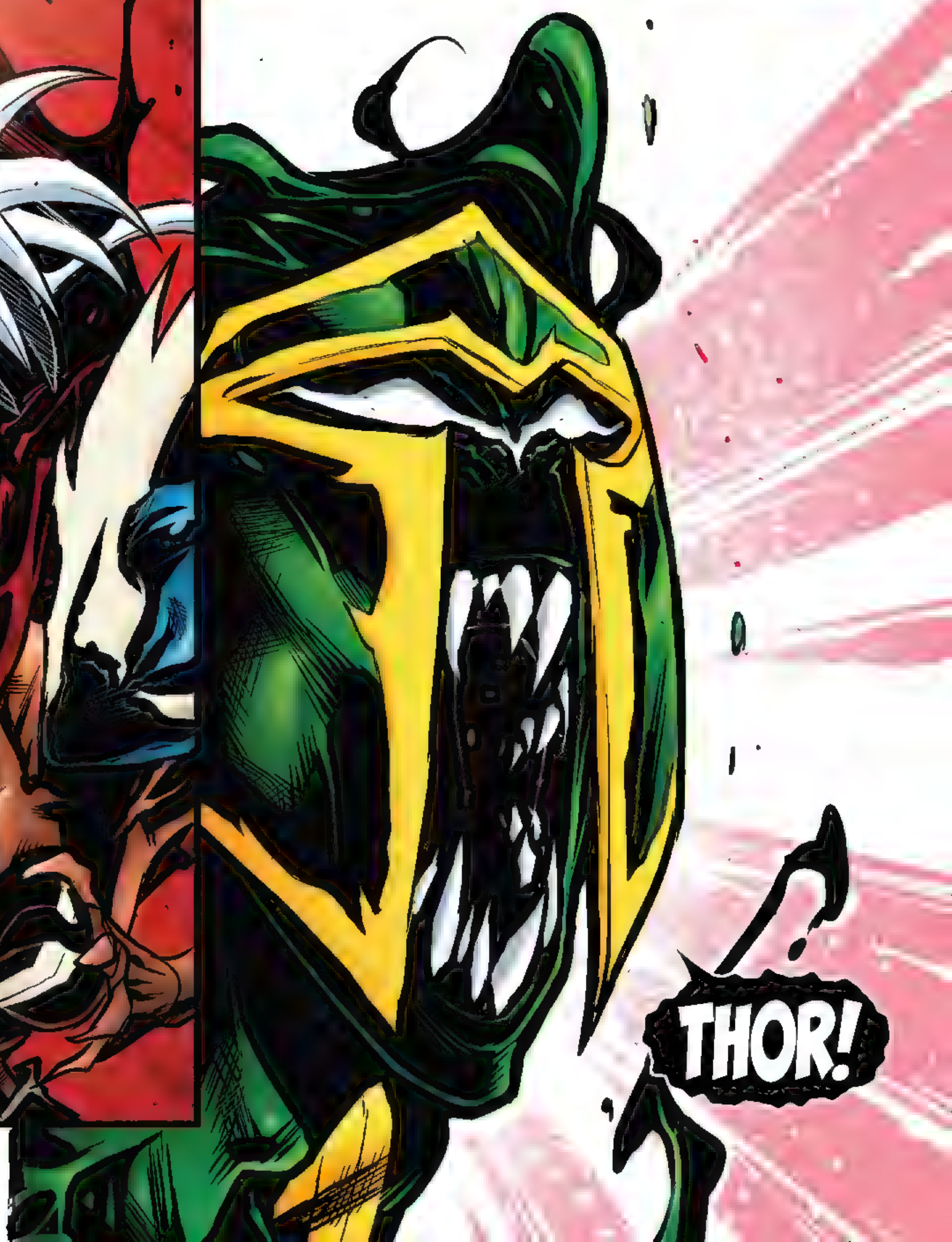
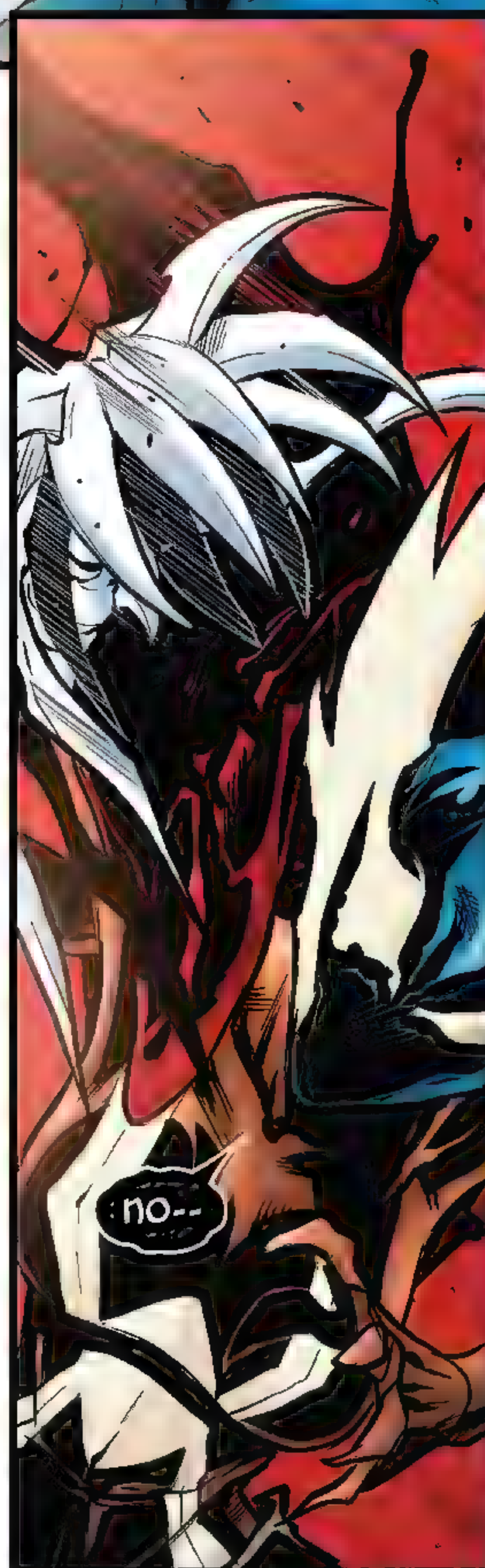
THOSE SMALL  
CREATURES...THEIR  
TOUCH...

...IS CAUSING SOME SORT  
OF TRANSFORMATION...




THEY'RE  
TAKING  
CONTROL!









I CALL  
UPON YOU TO  
YIELD, EARTH  
BEINGS!

THY  
DOOM--AND  
THY REBIRTH--  
IS UPON  
YOU!

SO  
SPEAKS THE  
GODDESS OF  
THUNDER!

TO BE CONTINUED IN  
**VENOMIZED #3!**





# Eddie's Clubhouse

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SEND E-MAILS TO [SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM](mailto:SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM) (PLEASE MARK "OKAY TO PRINT"!)!

Talk about a **SHOCKING** ending!

Hello, readers! Veditor Devin Lewis reporting to you live and in print from Marvel HQ in the heart of New York!

As I type this, **VENOMIZED** #1 has only just gone to the printer, so we don't have any letters from you fans out there in mighty Marveldom just yet--but don't let that stop you! Be sure to send your thoughts on **VENOMIZED** to [spideyoffice@marvel.com](mailto:spideyoffice@marvel.com)! Mark 'em "okay to print" and they just may pop up in **VENOMIZED** #3!

In the meantime, I've got a whole letter column to fill up, and I can't think of a better way to do that than by showing off the awesome array of variant covers that have been cooked up for the first two issues of this event!

We went to a host (hah!) of veteran Venom artists for these covers, and first up, we have not one, but two tremendous pieces from none other than **GABRIELE DELL'OTTO**! I wish I could tell you one of them is my favorite, but they're both so terrific I just can't choose.

First off, a piece that spells trouble for Spidey, natch.



But Spidey's not the only one in trouble, Venomaniacs, 'cause here's another piece, and it looks like Venom's got his eyes on **YOU**!



That one always gives me the heebie-jeebies...

Next up, we brought in **CLAYTON CRAIN** (who did an epic series of connecting covers for **VENOMVERSE**--if you haven't seen 'em, be sure to hunt 'em down!). It's always such a treat to see Clayton draw any of the symbiote characters, but there's something about the way he draws Venom

that's so unique, and the way the figure pops off that plain white background? **DANG.**



We didn't stop there, though, True Believers, because what would a return to classic Venom artists be without Mark Bagley--who's joined us this time around for a series of interlocking covers that will be on each issue of **VENOMIZED**!

I can only show you the first two covers for now --don't want to risk spoiling anything, after all--but keep your eyes peeled for the rest!



And last, but by no means least, is a cover that's very near and dear to my heart, and it comes with a peek **BEHIND THE COMICS**:



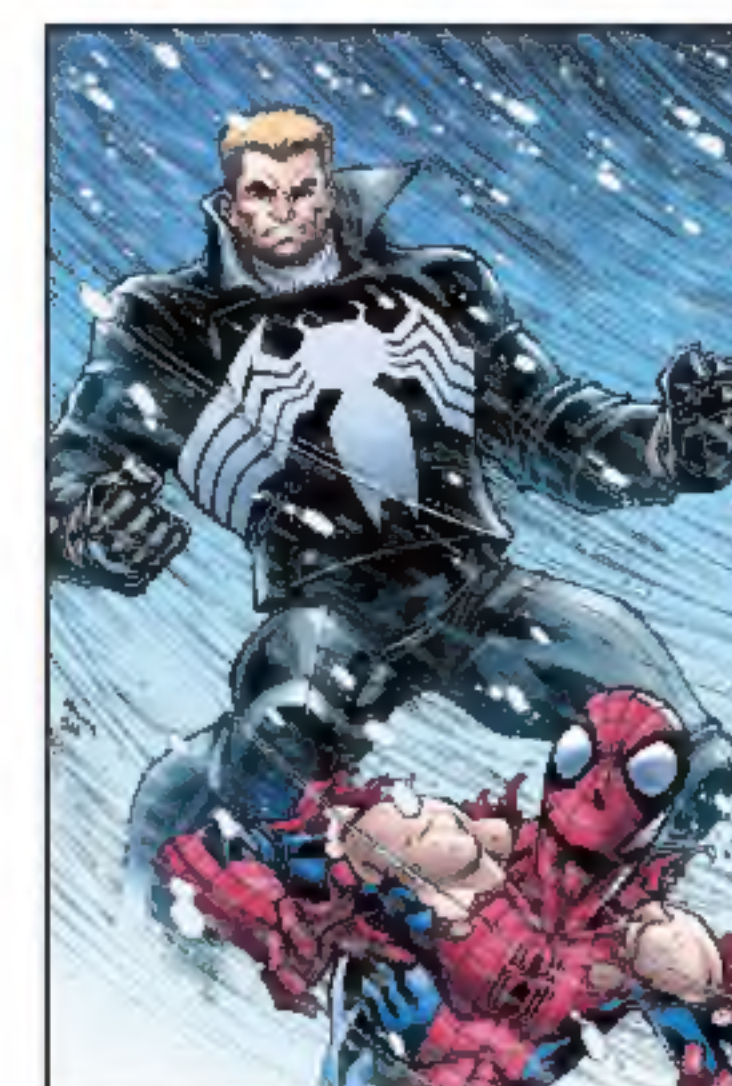
This particular cover, believe it or not, has been in the works for about six months! Late last year, Mark had a moment of free time in his schedule and sent a handful of Venom sketches

my way, with this one among them. We ended up going with a different sketch, but Mark and I frequently revisited this one--lovingly dubbed the "Pizza Cover"--over the next two months, trying to find a home for it. With **VENOMIZED**, we finally got our opportunity, and thanks to some terrific ink work by Andrew Hennessey and gorgeous colors by none other than Richard Isanove, this is finally a cover that you can get at your local shop! To me, there are few images that so precisely capture what it must be like to be Venom--being stared at in horror by members of a fearful populace while he's just trying to live his life.

We'll have more variant covers to share in the coming weeks, so keep your eyes peeled online or at your local shop, and be sure to tell 'em you want the best--and the best is **VENOM**!

**ITEM:** Those aren't the only Venomous variants on sale now, though--just last month, we kicked off the celebration of Venom's 30th Anniversary with a variant cover program across twenty other Marvel series! Each of these covers show off a unique moment in Venom's history and are illustrated by some of the best creators in the biz!

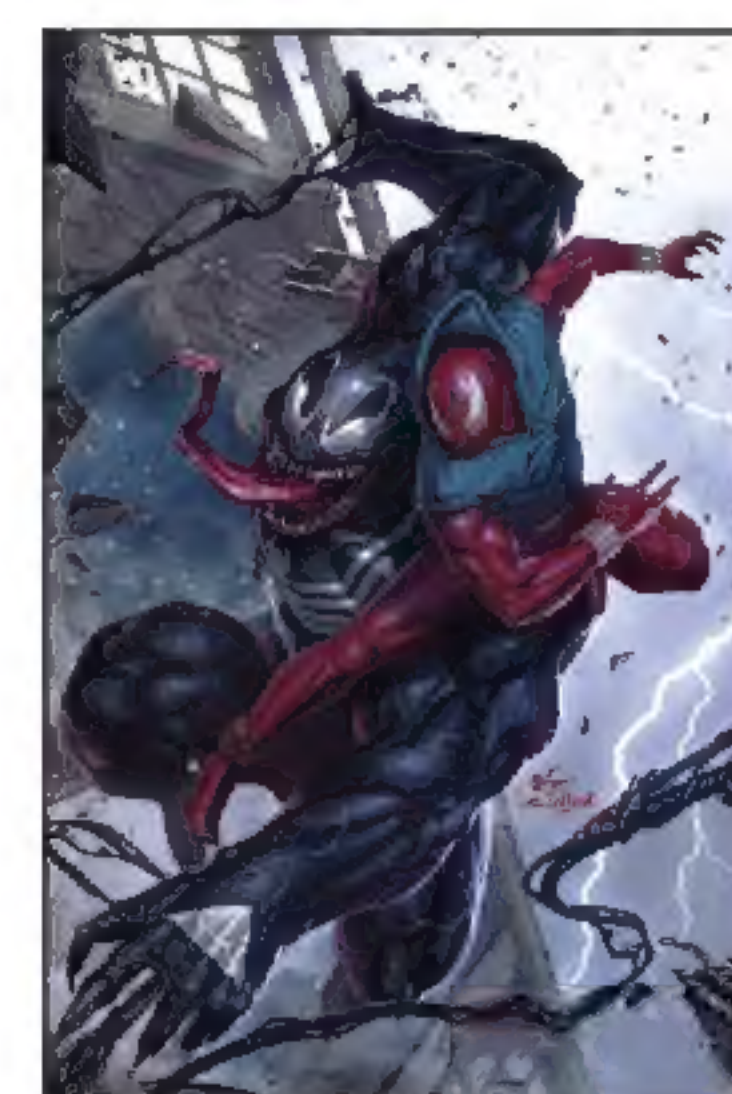
There are twenty to choose from--here are some of my favorites!



**X-MEN GOLD #25** Venom Anniversary Variant by Todd Nauck and Rachelle Rosenberg



**OLD MAN LOGAN #38** Venom Anniversary by Greg Smallwood



**X-MEN RED #3** Venom Anniversary Variant by In-Hyuk Lee

Be sure to ask your shop about 'em and see if your favorite Venom moment makes the list!

All right, that's enough for this one, True Believers! Be back here in **ONE WEEK** to see the clash between our heroes and **POISON THOR**! And trust us when we say we've got a few more surprises up our sleeves, so keep reading, keep writing and be sure to send us your letters!

Stay sharp!  
Devin

@edevinlewis



# NEXT:



## ON SALE IN ONE WEEK!

DON'T MISS THE NEXT CHAPTER IN THE "VENOMIZED" SAGA--ON SALE IN ONLY SEVEN DAYS! SO, HEAD DOWN TO YOUR LOCAL COMIC SHOP ON 4/18 TO GET YOUR HANDS ON *VENOMIZED* #3! IN THE MEANTIME, DON'T FORGET TO SEND YOUR NOTES TO [SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM](mailto:SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM) AND LET US KNOW HOW WE'RE DOING. PLEASE MARK THEM "OKAY TO PRINT."

SEE YOU IN ONE WEEK, TRUE BELIEVERS!

--TOM



